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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3118
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY 5027

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 000855

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR,
LA PAZ FOR A/DCM C LAMBERT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM UN DR](#)
SUBJECT: RESPONDING TO THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR
DOMINICAN INITIATIVES TO COUNTER TORTURE

REF: SECSTATE 70129

¶1. (U) In response to the Department's request for information on new and innovative torture prevention techniques and programs to assist torture victims (ref A), Post submits the following information for consideration.

¶2. (U) There is some evidence that the GODR has taken action to counter torture and to protect victims. Post questioned various NGOs and governmental agencies to determine existing policies and procedures to combat torture and to assist victims and/or witnesses. There are educational, preventive, and various other measures to inhibit mistreatment and torture, especially regarding for prisoners and detainees. In general, GODR and NGOs, however, were unable to provide specific policies, actions, or concrete examples in preventing and dealing with torture and victims of torture. Excessive use of force and unlawful killings are serious human rights' concerns for the Dominican Republic. Torture, however, appears to be only a sporadic occurrence. Post did identify some policies and projects that may offer protection against torture in the Dominican Republic.

¶3. (U) For the general protection of detainees from police abuses, the GODR established the "Justice Commission" to assist victims who have suffered abuses from the armed forces and the police. Additionally, there are police regulations and legal codes that prohibit the use of extreme force and abuse of detainees and/or prisoners. The GODR further has established crime victim committees in Pedernales Barahona, Neyba, Elias Pina, and Dejabon to prevent impunity and to offer psychological and moral assistance to victims of violence or extreme force by the police and the armed forces. However, a planned Human Rights Ombudsman position has yet to be filled, although the law providing for such an office has been in existence for 8 years.

¶4. (U) If the Department would like further information on any of these policies, Post will provide follow-up.
BULLEN